



IRVINGTON

Village News

<http://village.irvington.ny.us>
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Winter 2003

Dear Neighbors:

I look back at the year **2002** with pride in the many **achievements of your Village Board**, and with an eagerness to advance new initiatives in 2003. The preparation of a Village **Comprehensive (Master) Plan** that when adopted will guide the future development of our community took center stage in 2002. Thanks to the Village's Land Use Committee, and the many citizens who participated in the process of reviewing and altering the plan. We are headed towards adopting this important document in 2003. In a related matter, we were able to achieve additional funding towards the acquisition of the Westwood property for **open space preservation**. We look forward to finalizing the acquisition in the new year. Our **Community Advisory Board**, which brings together community leaders and young people, with the intention of working together to create an environment for the positive development of our youth, underwent reorganization and a re-energization under the leadership of Trustee Isabel Milano. The Village finally succeeded in acquiring the **McVickar House**, at 131 Main Street (the second oldest house on Main Street) and is in the process of transferring the property to the Irvington Historical Society for restoration as a history center and home for the Society. Last Spring I initiated a **traffic calming and pedestrian safety program** which will continue to aggressively address issues of parking in the downtown area, traffic congestion, speeding and other such quality of life issues. In April of 2002 your Village Board held the first **joint meeting with the Irvington School Board** in recent memory and further solidified the cooperative and productive relationship the two Boards have developed in recent years. Given the economic down turn, your Village Board has been required to concentrate a **focus on Village finances** and will continue to do so. This focus includes a reconsideration of the scale of our Village Hall renovations project. In a related matter, we have developed and are successfully implementing a comprehensive **initiative to obtain grants and other outside funding** to enable us to minimize tax rate increases while still delivering the services and improvements our residents deserve. Our beautiful new **Scenic Hudson Park** enjoyed its first full year of operation with lots of activity and much praise from residents of all ages who use and enjoy it. Following a great deal of research and discussion your Village Board adopted a **law regulating wireless telecommunication services facilities**. It is intended to prevent the indiscriminate proliferation of telecommunication towers and other such facilities in Irvington.

Other new laws we adopted in 2002 include a law limiting commercial activity on Broadway and a law requiring that full payment of any violations or other outstanding fees be satisfied before any applications may be considered for permits, variances, licenses or other approvals. Additionally, we adopted a law strengthening tree preservation functions, another establishing rules and regulations for all Village parks, and a law prohibiting the use of motorized vehicles on Village owned property. In 2002 we significantly advanced our **enhanced public information and communication initiative** via more frequent Village wide newsletters, and by taking some giant steps with respect to televising Village meetings and other community activities. Additionally, we have expanded the utilization of our Village website and our e-mail list. I look forward with you to a healthy, happy and prosperous new year.

Dennis P. Flood, Mayor



Washington Irving Monument Restoration Volunteers Earl Ferguson, Architect; Jeff Tilley, Electrician; and Doug Wilson, Irvington Landmarks Preservation Inc. receive thanks from Mayor Dennis Flood

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KAYAK/CANOE RAMP AT SCENIC HUDSON PARK

The village recently received notification from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation that a grant application was approved in the amount of \$7,500 toward the improvement of a kayak ramp at Scenic Hudson Park. To date, the village has been awarded \$27,500 toward the planning, design, and construction of the kayak ramp.

\$5,000	Hudson River Improvement Fund
\$15,000	Hudson River Valley Greenway Water Trail Program
\$7,500	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Estuary and Watershed Fund

The ramp will be more “user friendly” than the existing gravel and aggregate facility at the southern end of the park. It is anticipated that the new ramp will be completed in the late spring or early summer.

Views of the Kayak/Canoe Ramp at Scenic Hudson Park at right

SPEED MONITORING AWARENESS TRAILER

As part of Mayor Flood's Traffic and Safety Initiative, the Irvington Police Department has added a valuable tool to promote compliance with posted speed limits and to generate neighborhood traffic statistics. During the past few months, a Speed Monitoring Awareness Trailer (SMART) has been seen throughout the village. The SMART Trailer allows motorists to see their speeds on a highly visible LED display. The speed limit sign above the display reminds motorists to pay attention and ease up on the gas pedal. When a pre-set speed is exceeded, the LED display flashes and changes to red reminding motorists they have exceeded the speed limit. The trailer is also equipped with a traffic statistics computer that measures traffic volume and vehicle speed over a specified time period. This information will help the police department understand specific traffic conditions on a particular street and will be a contributing factor in future traffic calming recommendations. Special thanks go to State Senator Nicholas Spano and Assemblyman Richard Brodsky for providing a \$15,000 grant that covered the entire cost of the trailer and traffic statistics computer system.



Police Chief Richard Denike, Senator Nicholas Spano, Trustee Isabel Milano and Assemblyman Richard Brodsky



Existing Boat Ramp



Proposed Boat Ramp

Department of Public Works

The Public Works Department has had a great deal of success in providing free compost to Village residents. Compost is delivered free of charge to Irvington residents. If you wish to be placed on our delivery list for the Spring, please call 591-8787 and give us your address, phone number, and amount you would like delivered.

People sometimes ask if it is O.K. to put bound books in the recycling bin. The answer is “No.” Unfortunately, books are bound with fabric and currently are not able to be recycled.

As some of you are aware, the Public Works Department is in the process of implementing Phase II of the EPA's stormwater management program. (If you are interested in volunteering please call the Public Works Department at 591-6044 and give us your name and phone number.) The intent of the program is to minimize the volume of pollutants entering the Nation's waterways via stormwater runoff. One thing that residents can do to help is to refrain from depositing motor oil and household chemicals in stormwater catch basins. Catch basin effluent does not go into a wastewater treatment plant for processing as does household sanitary wastewater. Generally speaking, catch basin runoff runs off to nearby rivers and streams. Therefore, dumping toxic fluids and chemicals into a catch basin is just about as bad as pouring it directly into a river. Residents can safely dispose of motor oils by dropping them off at service stations or motor oil retail outlets. Household chemicals and other fluids can be safely disposed of by dropping them off to County Department of Environmental Facilities Representatives during Westchester County's Household Chemical Clean-Up Days. For a listing of times and dates of these events please call Westchester Household Chemical Info Line at 914-813-5425.



Irvington Town Hall Theater

Now that the dust has settled after the Holiday season, it is time to think about giving something to someone that lasts longer than that broken toy or game your child has become bored playing with. Give them the gift of a live performance. Many a child has pursued a career in dance, theater or music as an adult, when they became inspired to perform by attending a show with their parents as a youngster. That love of the stage was awakened in them and the memory has remained with them a lifetime. In the next few months we have a lot of performances for children, performed by children of all ages. Play Group theatre presents *The Sound of Music* on January 11, 12, 18 and 19. Irvington's own Sr. Children's Theater performs *Into the Woods*, on January 24-26th. Cagle & Company's Teen group presents the musical *Crazy For You* on February 7 and 8. On March 1st, join Irvington Volunteer Ambulance Corps' evening of fun and entertainment, **March Madness**. It is their fundraiser and local professional entertainers, high school students and the Corps finest will be performing for the community. Come and give them your support! The Irvington High School Drama Club performs *Babes In Arms*, on March 7, 8, 14, and 15. Broadway Training Center of Westchester's Sr. Ensemble performs *Gypsy*, on March 22 and 23. Irvington's Jr. Troupe is performing *The Wind In the Willows* on April 11-13. Try to take them to at least one or more of the above events. If your children don't start singing the latest tunes from these shows they, at the least, will develop a love of appreciation for the arts.

Now a little something for all the adults out there yearning for some thought provoking entertainment as an escape from the winter doldrums. Westchester 4th Wall Players, the group who brought us *The Vagina Monologues*, returns this year on April 4-6, with *The Laramie Project*, a play about Matthew Shepard's death that shocked the nation. Last year's show raised over \$8,000 as a benefit for My Sister's Place in White Plains.

On a more local historical note, Irvington author and resident Michael Burlingham, a great grandson of Louis Comfort Tiffany invites his audience on a personal portrait of the Tiffany family, on April 26, as a benefit for the Irvington Historical Society Building Fund. Come and learn the story and success behind Tiffany's lasting impression on our history.

For further show details, pick up our new Winter/Spring calendar and reserve your seats at the box office, by calling 591-6602, or by mail with a check or credit card.

VILLAGE ELECTIONS MARCH 18, 2003

POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM
6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For Absentee Ballot Information
Call 591-7070

At The Library

The Irvington Public Library, Located at 12 South Astor Street is open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Library starts the New Year with book clubs and story times. The 4th and 5th grade Book Club is reading **At The Sign of the Star and Strudel Stories** for its January meeting.

Our regular Story Times start on Monday and Tuesday mornings for two and three year olds and our **Cuddle Ups Time** for children between 15 and 24 months old will run from January 9th through February 13th. A new program **Hey Diddle Diddle**, a Mother Goose Lap Time, for 6 to 15 month olds will start February 5th at 11:00 a.m.

Travel Time Adventures, a **Story Craft** program, will take place on Wednesday afternoons at 3:45 p.m. during March. And our Saturday **Family Craft** programs will continue, starting with a Chinese New Year's celebration on January 25th at 11:00 a.m.

Watch for some special programs in the Children's Room – a Chinese New Year's Celebration on January 25th, Video Fest on February 18th and Puzzlemania on February 20th. In March, Phyllis Shalant will be visiting to discuss her book **When Pirates Came To Brooklyn** with the 4th and 5th Grade Book Club. And we are happy to be the hosts for the Westchester Library System's Children's Services meeting, where Peter Sis, children's illustrator and writer will be the featured speaker.

For adults, our two book clubs continue. The Wednesday Morning Book Club is reading **Girl in Hyacinth Blue** while the Thursday Evening Club is reading **Stones for Ibarra** by Harriet Doerr.

On January 26th, The Friends of the Library will present local author Catherine Johnson and on March 12th, Christina Chiu will discuss her book **Troublemakers and Other Saints** with the Wednesday Morning Book Club.

Please call the Library at 591-7840 for more information and registration.

Email Information

To join our email mailing list, send an email to LibraryNews-subscribe@village.irvington.ny.us. You'll automatically be added to our list.

To email us a question, send it to irvref@westchesterlibraries.org



Pedestrians' Right of Way In Crosswalks

"The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk on the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling."

Recreation Department

Youth Baseball/Softball Program

Registration for the 2003 Youth Baseball/Softball Programs For Boys & Girls, Kindergarten through 15 years of age Begins on Saturday, January 25, 2003. Special registration on January 25th will be held 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You may also register at the Recreation Department starting on Monday, January 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Copies of Birth Certificates are required for first time participants. The fee is \$100.00 per child and includes uniforms and awards.

Flyers are available at the Recreation Department, 71 Main Street. Residents are urged to sign up early.

The Recreation Department is also seeking sponsors for all of our teams. Team sponsor fees are \$300.00 per team. For information on becoming a sponsor contact Joe Archino at 591-7736



Adult Softball Leagues

Leagues for the 2003 Season are being formed. Leagues for Mens Over 40 Arc Ball, Co-Ed League Arc Ball, Mens Modified Fast-Pitch and Mens Open Flight Arc Ball are being offered.



Senior Citizens Program

Any Village resident 55 or older interested in joining our Senior Citizen Programs are urged to contact Senior Citizen Director Joan Armstrong, at the Irvington Senior Center located in Scenic Hudson Park at 591-8329.

SPRING & SUMMER BROCHURE

The Recreation Department's Spring & Summer 2003 Brochure will be available in March and will cover all programs and services that will be offered from April through August. The brochure will contain all information pertaining to summer camps.

Summer Job Applications

Anyone interested in part-time Summer Employment can pick up an employment application at the Recreation Department at anytime.

Registration required for all programs.

For additional information on any of the programs please call the Recreation Center at: 591-7736.

IrvingtonVillage News

Our thanks to all those who have contributed to this publication
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